

Utah Highlighted in Federal Direct Service Workforce Resource Center Toolkit

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Monday, 19 January 2009 17:00 - Last Updated Wednesday, 18 March 2009 15:09

The Utah Departments of Human Services, Health and Workforce Services partnered in 2007 in applying for and being awarded a grant of intensive technical assistance from the Direct Service Workforce (DWS) Resource Center of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).



This wide-ranging project, which was awarded to only five states, brought together public and private stakeholders to address state-of-the-art ways to recruit and retain a capable and talented workforce of those caring for Utah's needy and most vulnerable. Expert guidance and assistance was afforded by the University of Minnesota and the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute which were provided as expert partners in this exciting project by the DSW Resource Center.

The fruits of Utah's project have just been highlighted in a newly released *DSW Resource Center Toolkit* recently published by CMS. This toolkit offers states looking to enhance their capacities to enhance their critical supply of direct service professionals to meet the needs of the elderly, infirmed and disabled citizens of their states the knowledge gained by the many partners within Utah who joined together to explore innovative solutions to this serious problem. Utah and the Department of Human Services are proud to be able to contribute its experience and creativity in fulfilling this project to the benefit of States across the nation facing similar critical direct service workforce shortages.

For further information or questions please contact me at 538-4202 or cbruder@utah.gov